

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, SP

SUBJECT: ARREST AND CONTINUED DETENTION OF PCE LEADER SANCHEZ
MONTERO

SUMMARY: RECENT ARREST OF PRINCIPAL LEADER OF SPANISH COMMUNITIS
PARTY (PCE) INSIDE SPAIN, I.E. SIMON SANCHEZ MOTERO, FOLLOWING
A SPEECH HE GAVE AT MADRID UNIVERSITY, IS CLEAR INDICATION GOVT
IS NOT ABOUT TO TOLERATE OPEN PCE ACTIVITY, EVEN THOUGH IT IS
ALLOWING RELATIVELY FREE ACTIVITY BY OTHER ILLEGAL OPPOSITION
GROUPS. SANCHEZ MONTERO'S CONTINUED DETENTION, HOWEVER, IS
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LIKELY TO SPARK A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN WITH INTERNATIONAL OVER

TONES, END SUMMARY.

1. ON FEB 18, 2,000 PERSONS CROWDED INTO MADRID UNIVERSITY HALL TO ATTEND CONFERENCE, AUTHORIZED BY UNIVERSITY AUTHOTITIES IN WHICH MAIN PARTICIPANTS WERE TO BE THREE TOP LEADERS OF SPAIN'S CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, COMMUNISTS, AND SOCIALISTS I.E. INDC'S JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, PCE'S SIMON SANCHEZ MONTERO, AND PSOE'S FELIPE GONZALEZ. GONZALEZ, HOWEVER, HAD OTHER COMMITMENTS, AND SENT IN HIS PLACE UGT LEADER PABLO CASTELLANO. BOTH RUIZ GIMENEZ AND CASTELLANO MADE SIMILAR APPEALS FOR LIBERTY, TRADEUNION AND POLITICAL FREEDOMS, A FEDERAL STATE, AND GREATER UNITY AMONG SPANISH OPPOSITION. BUT CASTELLANO MADE A STUPID BLUNDER BY AN OFFHAND CONDEMNATION OF SPANISH MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INSTITUTIONS, PROVOKING SHARP NEWSPAPER CRITICISM. (CASTELLANO TOLD US PRIVATELY HE WAS TRYING TO BE HUMOROUS, BUT HE DOES STRONGLY ADVOCATE A DIVORCE LAW, PARTLY BECAUSE OF HIS OWN MARITAL FROBLEMS.)

2. STRONGEST SPEECH WAS THAT OF PCE'S SANCHEZ MONTERO, WHO (A) PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS LEADING MEMBER OF PCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: (B) COMPLAINED ABOUT THREE OTHER MEMBERS, FERNANDEZ IGUANZO, ROMERO MARIN, AND LOBATO, STILL IN JAIL, AND ABOUT SANTIAGO CARRILLO'S BEING PREVENTED FROM RETURNING TO SPAIN (C) MADE USUAL PCE CALL FOR AMNESTY, UNITY OF ALL OPPOSITION, PROVISIONAL GOVT, FREE ELECTIONS, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, AND COMPLETE REPLACEMENT OF EXISTINGS LEGISLTATION, (D) INSISTED PCE IS UINCERELY DEMOCRATIC AND HAS FOUGHT HARDEST AND SUFFERED THE MOST IMPRISONMENTS TO BRING DEMOCRACY TO SPAIN, AND (E) STATED CURRENT SPANISH POLITICAL SITUATION SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS BATTLE BETWEEN CONSERVATIVES OF "BUNKER" AND REGIME REFORMERS SINCE BOTH THESE GROUPS REALLY FAVOR "CONTINUISM" BUT AS BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY BETWEEN DICTATORIAL REGIME AND OPPOSITION ADVOCATES OF PEACEFUL "DEMOCRATIC RUPTURE."

3. ON FEB 19 POLICE ARRESTED SANCHEZ MONTERO AND HE IS STILL DETAINED IN MADRID'S CARABANCHEL PRISON, ALTHOUGH HEARING IN HIS CASE BEFORE JUDGE OF PUBLIC ORDER COURT WAS HELD FRB 25 AND HE IS BEING CHARGED WITH ILLICIT ASSOCIATION AND ILLEGAL PROPAGANDA, BASED ON HIS SPEECH AT THE UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC ADMISSION THEN THAT HE IS A PCE LEADER. RUIS GIMENEZ, FELIPE GONZALEZ, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PSP'S TIERNO GALVAN HAVE ISSUED A STATEMENT CONDEMNING HIS ARREST.

4. COMMENT SANCHEZ MONTERO ARREST APPEARS TO CONSTITUTE CLEAR WARNING THAT GOVT WILL NOT ALLOW PCE SAME DE FACTO FREEDOM AND TOLERANCE ALLOWED TO OTHER QTE ILLEGAL UNQTEOPPOSITION GROUPS. WE JUDGE GOS, AND PARTICULARLY THE MILITARY, HAVE BEEN CONCERNED OVER INCREASINGLY BLANTANT ACTIVITIES OF PCE LEADERS.

(E.G. THREE WEEKS AGO SANCHEZ MNOTERO, ALONG WITH OTHER PCE

LEADERS SUCH AS ARMANDO LOPEZ SALINAS AND EUGENIO TRIANA, HELD
A MADRID PRESS CONFERENCE.) WORKERS COMMISSIONS POSE A DIFFERENT
PROBLEM, SINCE ANY ARRESTS OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS LEADERS, SUCH
AS CAMACHO, WOULD LIKELY PROVOKE LABOR DEMONSTRATIONS. IF
SANCHEZ MONTERO IS NOT RELEASED SOON ON PROVISIONAL LIBERTY, IT
APPEARS LIKELY AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN WILL BE MOUNTED
AGAINST GOS CALLING FOR HIS RELEASE.
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